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INFORMATION REPORT

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122

COUNTRY Korea/Japan/USSR

SUBJECT Traffic at Chokto Island

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PLACE
ACQUIRED

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Chokto (130-31, 42-19) Island, in Taejin Bay near the mouth of the Tumen River, is in use as a port for traffic between Japan and North Korea. The Island is about three kilometers south of the village of Tsaamdong (130-30, 42-20), in the vicinity of Unggi.* An unidentified Soviet unit consisting of about 40 men has a camp on the shore opposite the island.**
2. About 20 October 1949, two large vessels anchored at Chokto Island and unloaded full cargoes of weapons. Shortly afterwards, the Soviet unit began offering to the North Korean army weapons of Japanese manufacture, resembling the Japanese 99 rifle, and ammunition.
3. On 11 November, two vessels entered the Chokto anchorage area, one identified as the "En Hwa Hwan" (인화환), captain HONG (洪), a 40-year old native of Hamhung (127-32, 39-54) and member of the North Korean Labor Party. Cargoes were landed at night and on the following morning were transported to Unggi in ox carts under guard by the Soviet army and the Korean Po An Tae. The cargo consisted of 40 to 50 cases approximately 4 by 4 by 4 feet and about the same number 4 by 4 by 5 feet, all stamped "Danger" in red. Local report identified the cargo as weapons (of unspecified type) smuggled in from Niigata, Japan.
4. During the arrival of vessels, inhabitants of Chokto Island were restricted in movement. In late November, all residents were ordered to move to other localities.

Comment. For a previous report of Soviet installations at Ungel,

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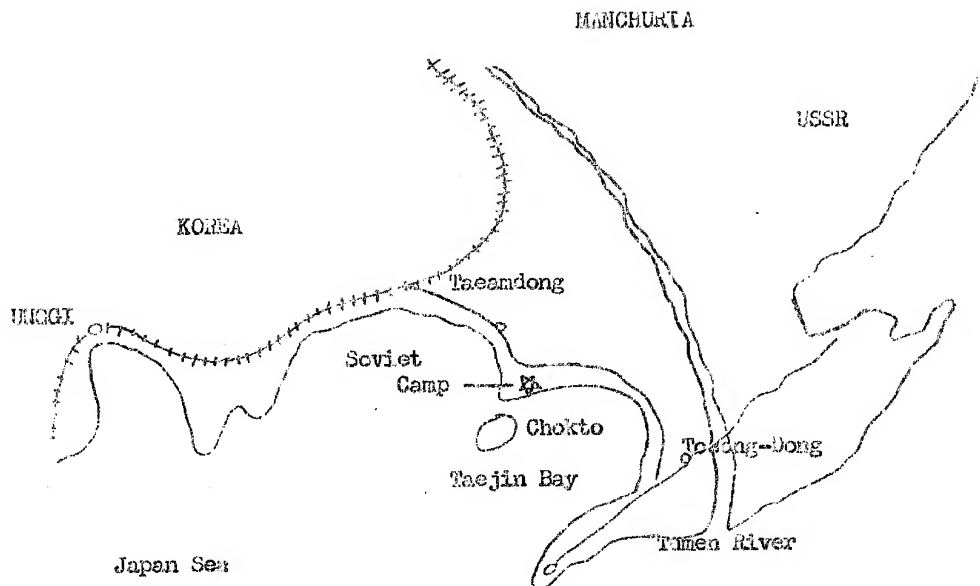
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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** ~~Comment:~~ The harbor and town locations are approximately the following:



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